Purity

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Purity

by constantly_thinking

Summary

As she returns home to Honno City, Ryuko recalls Junketsu, the former boyfriend of her older sister Satsuki. What seemed like a good relationship hid horrific secrets that would lead to a devastating outcome.

Notes

Didn't have a clue as to when I was eventually going to post this. I decided I'd do it shortly after I finally got around to redrafting it.

The story within the framing narrative is set two years prior to the events of Finding Their Way, with the framing narrative itself set during said story when Ryuko is on the train back to Honno City during the events of the Darling in the Franxx crossover Finding Their Way.

Oh, and consult the tags for trigger warnings.

See the end of the work for more notes

What I've learned today really has made me realise my life isn't so bad. There are people who've had worse lives than mine, and while I've had issues, they just don't compare.

My big sister Satsuki would know a thing or two about that.

It started two years ago, when she began her studies at Honnoji Academy. Satsuki's always been outgoing and confident, but she was a lot more cheerful back when she started her time there. It was at Honnoji that she met Yasu Hattori, a third-year student who she soon befriended. He helped her adjust to studying there, and before we knew it, they were seeing each other. She even joined the sports club that he was a part of at school.

My family were soon introduced to the rest of Yasu's family, which is how I met his younger brother Shunsuke, who is my age. Obviously, I never refer to him as Shunsuke; when I found out a nickname that he used online was Senketsu – meaning "fresh blood" – it's not difficult to determine what I would call him.

My mother thought very highly of Yasu. Like myself, Satsuki, my twin sister Nui, and my father, we all thought he was a very nice guy. Heck, my mother even called him Junketsu, or "purity", because of how nice he was.

This would end up being really ironic.

It wouldn't be until his trial when we found out the depths of his behaviour. Before then, I was completely in the dark, as were the rest of my family. Well, except for one person.

Satsuki.

A little while after their relationship began, he started to become controlling of her. Normally you hear about stuff like that when two people live together in the same house, but they didn't. That's what made the whole thing even more messed up.

But it wasn't just psychological. His abuse was also physical, and Satsuki would end up with bruises. When asked about it by our family, she just shrugged it off as an injury from playing sport. We didn't suspect a thing because of how positive she seemed, always smiling and acting like it was no big deal.

She even smiled after he raped her.

He used protection, but that didn't lessen his crime. He still took advantage of her for himself.

In that time, Senketsu and I had become good friends. I'd never had any friends before, so it was nice to have someone I really got along with. He was also in the dark, but after overhearing a phone call Junketsu had with Satsuki, he became concerned. He noticed the language he used was threatening and controlling, and he told me about what he heard.

I never spoke to anyone else in our family about what Senketsu heard, except for Satsuki herself. Not just did she deny it, she was more than firm with her response. She genuinely

snapped at me and raised her voice. Before then, I'd never seen her so angry before. It was so unlike her.

It was not long after this that she decided she would break off her relationship with him. Only she wanted to do this, so it was obvious Junketsu wouldn't accept her rejection.

Satsuki texted him one day, stating that she wished to see him, so they agreed they'd meet at his place. Once she was there, she told him how she didn't want to be with him anymore as she had grown tired of his abuse. She threatened that she would go public with his true nature, to which he threatened that he would violate her again if she did.

What they both didn't realise was they weren't alone, as Senketsu was still in the house. He heard their argument, and told Junketsu he already knew about what he'd been doing to her. Junketsu seemed to panic, but there was more aggression than downright fear in his response; he soon grabbed hold of a bottle of toilet cleaner, which he wished to attack Satsuki with. Senketsu was wrestling the bottle out of him when some of the cleaner accidentally squirted out into his eye. As soon as it happened, the room was silent. Even Junketsu was shocked.

But he didn't care. He didn't have remorse, but he knew things were crashing down for him. He fled the scene, leaving Satsuki and the injured Senketsu alone. They then called the emergency services, with Senketsu being taken to hospital while the police hunted for Junketsu.

It was then that mine and Senketsu's families learned the truth about what had been going on. Satsuki finally broke as she told Mum and Dad about what had happened to her, and while I was sorry for her, I was also sorry for Senketsu. We all were.

He was now blind in one eye, with scars on the side of his face the toilet cleaner hit. Both his and Satsuki's lives had now changed for the worst.

Almost a day later, Junketsu was found and arrested. He was found in the city of Verbena, and was soon taken back to Honno City. The trial against him very shortly begun, with the extent of Satsuki's abuse then being made public. Junketsu befriended her with the intent of eventually becoming a part of our family so he could get hold of our money. He told the court he was guilty, but he was only saying that because he knew he was from a legal standpoint. He didn't care what he did, both to my sister and his own brother. He was just disappointed he got caught.

After that, he was sentenced to thirty years. Legally, Satsuki and Senketsu got the justice they wanted, but the psychological impact took its toll on them. Senketsu took a while to adjust to the fact he was blind in one eye and had to wear an eyepatch, while Satsuki's behaviour soon changed into what it is today – cold, blunt, and uncaring. There's even been days when she's taken any frustration out on myself and Nui, whether it's just repressed frustration caused by Junketsu, or something that happened at school that day.

Fortunately, even before she met him, she already had a circle of friends. As there were six of them as a whole, including herself, they decided to name themselves the Elite 6. They all supported Satsuki with her trauma and, just like everyone else, were completely oblivious to Junketsu's true nature. I could tell they regretted this, and did what they could to compensate.

A year after Junketsu's imprisonment began, his mother received a job offer that meant she had to move away for it. Instead of her living away from home, her family decided to move away to where the job was, but promised Junketsu they'd still visit him. I think that, deep down, they were trying to distance themselves from him; not just because of the shame they felt towards him, but the ridicule the public subjected them to once the case was public.

And that's what's led me to today – skipping town to visit Senketsu. I'd visited only once before, but it wasn't too difficult to find by myself. I've learned a lot today, and just thinking back to what happened to both him and Satsuki has made me realise my life hasn't been as bad as it could be.

After all, there are people with worse lives. I'm just lucky.

Stupidly lucky.

I'm now on a train heading back to Honno City. I'll be back very shortly, and there's no doubt Mum and Dad are going to be mad when I get home. It won't be pleasant to have them shouting at me, but as I've already said, things could be worse.

A lot worse.

End Notes

In the past, I've been going back and forth over whether or not the Heartverse will keep going. At the moment, I'm not interested in KLK or DarliFra, although I do have the odd idea for the latter (but just that – ideas. Nothing definitive), and a story I'd like to write for the former. However, the idea I've got is... *different* to stuff I've written before, and I don't want people to get the wrong idea with my intent behind it.

Due to how I'm now working on a series called The Collision Saga, my interest in the Heartverse has temporarily waned. I've learned (from what I've seen others discuss on Reddit) that I shouldn't let a lack of hits bother me with what I post – let alone write – but the thought of working on any new Heartverse stuff makes me cringe. I know 100% that I'll write a finale that closes everything up and explains away any inconsistencies and unanswered questions, but *when* is yet to be determined.

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